advances of the banks under indirect finance to agriculture.

(b) The Corporation proposes to issue these bonds in the month of March, 1997.

(c) The total amount likely to be raised through these bonds for the year 1996-97 is Rs. 150 crores.

(d) The amount raised by REC through subscription to its priority sector bonds will be used in providing financial assistance to various SEBs/State Power Departments for making available the infrastructure necessary for energisation of pumpsets. The procurement of pump-sets is the responsibility of the consum ers either from their own resources or, by taking loans from banks. NABARD has, however, advised Commercial Banks to sanction/provide loans for purchase of only BIS (Bureau of Indian Standard) pumpsets.

Self Employment schemes in Maharashtra

*199. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount of loan provided under self-employment schemes to the urban poor in Maharashtra, during 1996-97;

(b) what measures Government pro pose to take to provide such assistance to more persons and make the procedure getting loans easy; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to make the self-employment schemes more effective and beneficial to the unemployed youths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PAR-LIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Two Central-ly sponsored urban self-employment schemes are being implemented in the country including Maharashtra. They are the Scheme of Urban Micro Entrerprises (SUME) of Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) launched in October, 1989, and the self employment component of Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication programme (PMI UPEP) launched in November, 1995. The amount of loan provided under the self-cmploymcnt com-ponents of NRY and PMI UPEP is as below:—

N.R.Y.: Under this scheme, during 1996-97 (as on 31.1.1997) a sum of Rs. 379.47 lakhs of Government subsidy has been sanctioned to the beneficiaries in Maharashtra. Approximately three times of this amount has been sanctioned as loan by banks.

PxMI UPEP : The Government of Maharashtra has reported that loan amounting to Rs. 42.17 lakhs and subsidy amounting to Rs. 6.37 lakhs have been provided under the self-employment com-ponent of PMI UPEP in the State during 1995—97.

(b) and (c) The progress of schemes is reviewed from time to time in consultation with the State Government and the Reserve Bank of India. The Urban Local Bodies arc urged to recommend more and more applications to the Banks. Suitable instructions as may be necessary are issued from time to time.

Disparity between poverty and affluence

* 200. SHRIMATI VEENA, VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the paradoxical situation obtaining in the country with packets of affluence and conspicuous consumption amidst vast tracts of poverty and ignorance; and

(b) if, so what specific programmes have been drawn up for being dovetailed into the Ninth Five Year Plan or other wise to reduce this striking disparity bet-